



Fair Political Practices Commission

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NEWS ADVISORY

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REMINDER: Hearing on Prop. 54 suit Friday

A hearing on a motion by the Fair Political Practices Commission for a preliminary injunction against the American Civil Rights Coalition (ACRC) and its CEO, Ward Connerly, for violating campaign disclosure laws, will be held at **9 a.m. Friday, Sept. 19, before Sacramento Superior Court Judge Thomas M. Cecil**. The motion for preliminary injunction seeks an order from the court requiring disclosure prior to the Oct. 7 election.

Note to Editors: The court is located across the street from the main Sacramento County courthouse, at 800-9th St., in Department 54.

In a lawsuit filed Sept. 3, the FPPC alleges that ACRC and Connerly violated state campaign disclosure laws by failing to file campaign statements reporting the source of almost \$2 million contributed to promote the passage of Proposition 54.

The FPPC contends that ACRC has contributed more than \$1.9 million to the Proposition 54 committee since 2001 – or approximately 88 percent of all of the contributions received by the committee. Based on information the commission received from Connerly, the FPPC contends ACRC received the contributions from various donors. The organization is required by the Political Reform Act to disclose in campaign disclosure statements the identities of those donors. ACRC and Connerly have refused to file statements disclosing these contributors, leaving voters without any information about who is financing the campaign to win passage of the initiative.

“Timely disclosure is the backbone of the Political Reform Act,” said Commission Chair Liane Randolph. “Voters have a basic right to know who is funding political campaigns.” Steven Russo, chief of the FPPC’s Enforcement Division, said ACRC and Connerly left the agency “with no other option” than to file suit to compel their compliance with the law, after efforts to seek voluntary compliance were unsuccessful.

This is the first time the FPPC has filed suit before an election to require campaign disclosure. A complaint filed by Common Cause and other organizations has been under investigation by the FPPC for several months.

The FPPC’s complaint, motion for preliminary injunction, and supporting points and authorities are available on the FPPC Web site at www.fppc.ca.gov. Go to “litigation” on the left side of the home page.

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